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# Stepup in U.S. Information Effort Urged

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Washington

A presidential task force on "information activities" abroad—this one set up by President Eisenhower, not by President-elect Kennedy—recommends a stepped-up information program on every front.

Especially advocated are such measures as: more information programs beamed to Africa, an "international educational development foundation," better handling of African exchanges in the United States, more use of international television, more contacts with key "leadership groups" in various nations—and more presidential "good-will visits."

The proposals were presented to President Eisenhower by a nine-man committee, set up by the President last February to survey and evaluate United States information programs overseas and headed by Mansfield D. Sprague, former Assistant Secretary of Defense, now in private business.

## Expanded Effort

In meeting the Communist challenge, the report declares, "the eventual outcome will depend in considerable degree on the extent we are able to influence the attitudes of people."

"The scale of the total United States information effort will have to be progressively expanded for some time to come. There is urgent need for substantial increases in the critical areas of Africa and Latin America."

In Africa, the report stated, "the pace of political developments has outstripped our informational preparations. We lack basic knowledge of the processes by which information and ideas are communicated within these societies; we lack sufficient information specialists in the languages and cultures; we lack sufficient physical contacts."

Receiving the report, President Eisenhower said he had referred it to agencies concerned and had ordered it into the permanent government records to be available for future use—presumably by the Kennedy administration. President-elect Kennedy also has a task force at

work on informational activities.

More and more attention is thus being given to the question of American prestige abroad. All committees are aware that, basically, prestige depends on accomplishments. But the reporting mirror's distortions can be corrected, it is emphasized.

"Today it is recognized that unless governments effectively communicate their policies and actions to all politically influential elements of foreign populations, their programs can be impeded and their security placed in jeopardy," the report says.

## Soviet-Bloc Effort

Among its comments are:

- The present United States information system amounts to 1 per cent of the approximately \$50,000,000,000 spent annually on national security. Efforts must be increased in the Soviet bloc—"to provide the populations with information in hope of lessening the hostility and aggressiveness of their governments."

- New efforts must be made to "communicate" with the Chinese people, who are being subjected to a massive "hate America" campaign.

- Cross-assignment of personnel between information and noninformation agencies would improve the caliber of officials. Language-training efforts of the Foreign Service and other services should receive greater congressional support. Congress should support an orderly expansion of informational activities.

- A national security institute, under the National Security Council, would be useful in providing high-level training in the interrelated aspects of the world struggle, for officers from economic, diplomatic, information, and military agencies.

- Educational assistance abroad should be greatly enlarged, including building and equipping model schools, laboratories, and libraries "as symbols of American help," and creation of regional institutes and training centers in public administration, farming, management, health, and mechanical trades.

- There could be "opportunity scholarships" to enable young

people in various countries, on the basis of open competition, to secure an education.

- There could be a program for training young Americans to work abroad in such tasks as schoolteaching and village development. President-elect Kennedy has proposed an American "youth corps" for service abroad.

- Exchanges with the Soviet-bloc countries should be continued, with such expansion as may be appropriate.

- Our diplomacy must increasingly give greater emphasis to the factor of public opinion in the handling of major conferences and negotiations, in the selection and training of members of the Foreign Service, and in our treatment of foreign visitors.

- The functions of the opera-

tions coordinating board should be continued in some guise, to handle the global impact of American policy decisions.

Besides Mr. Sprague, committee members from outside government were C. D. Jackson and Philip D. Reed, both in private business but with prior diplomatic experience. Other members were George V. Allen, director of the United States Information Agency; Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Karl G. Harr, Jr., presidential assistant for security operations coordination; John N. Irwin II, Assistant Secretary of Defense; Livingston T. Merchant, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; and Gordon Gray, special assistant to the President for national security affairs.